

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling a solid-state image pickup apparatus, comprising:

a preparing step of preparing a solid-state image pickup apparatus configured to process and output an image signal output from a solid-state image sensor that converts an optical image representative of a field and focused on said solid-state image sensor by a lens to the image signal, said solid-state image sensor including a plurality of composite pixels which are arranged in a photosensitive array and each of which consists of a main photosensitive cell and an auxiliary photosensitive cell different in sensitivity from each other and respectively formed by a main photosensitive portion and an auxiliary photosensitive portion, a plurality of microlenses respectively positioned on said plurality of composite pixels for focusing incident light, and a plurality of color filter segments respectively positioned on said plurality of composite pixels in a preselected pattern;

a photometry step of executing photometry with the field;

a signal processing step of processing the image signal;
and

a control step of switching signal processing of said signal processing step in accordance with a result of photometry executed in said photometry step;

in said signal processing step, color difference gain processing for the image signal being switched in accordance with control of said control step to thereby lower a chroma of the image signal.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said control step variably controls the signal processing for the image signal in accordance with a focal distance of the lens.

3. The method in accordance with claim 2, wherein said control step variably controls the signal processing for the image signal in accordance with a zoom position of the lens.

4. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein in said signal processing step tonality correction processing for the image signal is switched in accordance with the control of said control step.

5. The method in accordance with claim 4, wherein in said signal processing step a gamma table to use is switched in accordance with the control of said control step.

6. The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said control step determines shading on the basis of the result of photometry and switches the processing of said signal processing step in accordance with a result of determination.

7. The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein said photometry step executes divisional photometry with the field on the basis of the image signal output from the image sensor, and wherein said control step determines shading on the basis of a result of said divisional photometry.

8. A solid-state image pickup apparatus for processing and outputting an image signal output from a solid-state image sensor configured to convert an optical image representative of an objective field and focused on said solid-state image sensor by a lens to said image signal, said solid-state image sensor including a plurality of composite pixels which are arranged in a photosensitive array and each of which consists of a main photosensitive cell and an auxiliary photosensitive cell different in sensitivity from each other and respectively formed by a main photosensitive portion and an auxiliary

photosensitive portion, a plurality of microlenses respectively positioned on said plurality of composite pixels for focusing incident light, and a plurality of color filter segments respectively positioned on said plurality of composite pixels in a preselected pattern, said apparatus comprising:

a signal processor configured to process the image signal; and

a controller configured to switch signal processing of said signal processor in accordance with a result of photometry;

wherein said controller includes a photometry circuit configured to executed photometry with the field, said signal processor switching, under control of said controller, color difference gain processing for the image signal to thereby lower a chroma of said image signal.

9. The apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein said controller variably controls the signal processing for the image signal in accordance with a focal distance of the lens.

10. The apparatus in accordance with claim 9, wherein said controller variably controls the signal processing for the image signal in accordance with a zoom position of the lens.

11. The apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein said signal processor switches tonality correction processing for the image signal under the control of said controller.

12. The apparatus in accordance with claim 11, wherein said signal processor switches a gamma table to use under the control of said controller.

13. The apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein

said controller determines shading on the basis of the result of photometry and switches the processing of said signal processor in accordance with a result of determination.

14. The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said photometry circuit executes divisional photometry with the field on the basis of the image signal output from the image sensor, said controller determining shading on the basis of a result of said divisional photometry.